

Syllabus

PLATO Course Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, Semester B

Course Overview

This one-semester course is intended to help you familiarize yourself with various aspects of the agriculture, food science, and natural resources industry. This course has 15 lessons organized into 3 units, plus 3 Unit Activities. Each lesson contains one or more Lesson Activities.

This course covers basic concepts in the field of agriculture, food science, and natural resources. It also covers career opportunities in these fields and the academic skills and knowledge required for a successful career in agriscience.

You will submit the Unit Activity documents to your teacher, and you will grade your work on the Lesson Activities by comparing them with the given sample responses. The Unit Activities (submitted to the teacher) and the Lesson Activities (self-checked) are the major components of this course. There are other assessment components, namely the mastery test questions that feature along with the lesson; the pre- and post-test questions that come at the beginning and end of the unit, respectively; and an end-of-semester test. All of these tests are a combination of simple multiple-choice questions and technology enhanced (TE) questions.

Course Goals

This course will help you meet the following goals:

- Explore the importance of animal and food science and the role of technology in these fields.
- Discuss the importance of time, task, and resource management skills in the field of agriculture.
- Examine the roles of customer service, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills in the field of agriculture.
- Explain the importance of information technology in the agricultural sciences and related careers.
- Demonstrate entrepreneurial, lifelong-learning, and job acquisition skills needed to excel in agricultural careers.

Prerequisite Skills

PLATO Course Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, Semester B has the following prerequisites:

- interest in the field of agriculture, food, and natural resources
- familiarity with the writing process and following guidelines

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Perform basic operations on a computer.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of the general skills required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

PLATO Course Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, Semester B is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- notebook
- computer with an internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you stay on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Unit 1: Animal and Food Science

Summary

In this unit, you will explore concepts in animal and food sciences. You will also learn about essential career skills, such as time, task, and resource management. Finally, you will learn the basics of customer service skills, critical-thinking abilities, and problem-solving skills in the field of agriscience.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 1	Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
5 days: 2–6	Animal Science <i>Explain the principles of animal anatomy, physiology, health, reproduction, and management.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 7–11	Food Science and Technology <i>Discuss the importance of food science and technology.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 12–15	Time, Task, and Resource Management <i>Demonstrate time, task, and resource management skills by organizing and implementing a productive plan of work.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 16–19	Customer Service <i>Demonstrate customer service skills by identifying and addressing the needs of all customers and providing helpful, courteous, and knowledgeable service.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 20–23	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving <i>Demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills by analyzing and resolving problems that arise when completing assigned tasks.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 24	Para Jumble	Game
5 days: 25–29	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 1	Unit Activity

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 30	Post-test—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: Technology and Agriculture

Summary

In this unit, you will determine the role of emerging technologies in agricultural sciences. You will also learn about the importance and use of the Internet and information technology in various agricultural careers.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
5 days: 31–35	Power and Structural Technology <i>Describe the role and impact of power and structural technology in the AFN industry.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 36–40	Technology in Agricultural Science <i>Discuss the role of emerging technologies in agriculture, food, and natural resources.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 41–44	Job-Specific Technologies <i>Demonstrate proficiency with job-specific technologies by selecting and safely using technological resources to accomplish work responsibilities in a productive manner.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 45–48	Information Technology <i>Demonstrate proficiency with information technology by using computers, file management techniques, and software/programs effectively.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 49–52	Internet Use and Security <i>Demonstrate proper internet use and security by using the Internet appropriately for work.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 53	Space Jumble	Game
5 days: 54–58	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity
1 day: 59	Post-test—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: Opportunities in Agriscience

Summary

In this unit, you will explore the different career choices available in the field of agriscience. Further, you will learn about the lifelong-learning, job acquisition, and job advancement skills necessary for a successful career in the field of agriscience.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 60–63	Management and Entrepreneurship <i>Discuss the role of management and entrepreneurial opportunities in the AFN industry.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 64–67	Lifelong Learning <i>Demonstrate lifelong-learning skills by continually acquiring new industry-related information and improving professional skills.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 68–71	Job Acquisition and Advancement <i>Demonstrate job acquisition and advancement skills by preparing to apply for a job and seeking promotion.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 72–76	Careers in Agricultural Science <i>Describe various careers available in the AFN industry in the United States.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 77–81	The Future of Agriculture <i>Discuss the research, development, and future trends in the AFN industry.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 82	Thwack-A-Mole	Game
5 days: 83–87	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity
1 day: 88	Post-test—Unit 3	Assessment
1 day: 89	Semester Review	
1 day: 90	End-of-Semester Test	Assessment